

February 9, 1976

We talked about the reference to gambling and the affect it has upon people. Anytime you get two people together we're going to gamble. Senator Rasmussen gambled, when he put the kill motion on, that he's going to win. I'm gambling he's not. I don't see any side-betting going on up in the balcony, but if I were up there I'd be betting a little myself.

I would hope that we would not try to portray this as a clandestine activity by a group of people to secure some funds that would not ordinarily go to that purpose for an ulterior motive. Senator Rasmussen made the reference to the fact that I put the bill on the floor as a personal bill. Well I would like to know how, and I hope in his closing he will take time to explain, how a bill which would increase the pari-mutuel tax in the State of Nebraska to be paid into the state coffers can, by any way, shape or form, be considered a personal bill or a bill of personal benefit to myself. It was not intended to do so. It is not so. When I increased the pari-mutuel tax, several years ago, I noticed no particular benefit personally nor did Senator Rasmussen from that. I believe the State of Nebraska benefited and benefited substantially.

I think that there are many communities in the state that will benefit from this type of bill in the future. I would want to commend the people from Buffalo County. You know there are a lot of us around here who never had an original idea in our life, but we can always attack someone else's idea or we can jump on the bandwagon and try to ride piggyback. But when we find some group, such as this group in Buffalo County, who have come up with an idea which is not entirely new but which is somewhat new because of the fact that we have involved quarterhorse racing instead of thoroughbred racing, then we are charged with the fact that it shouldn't be allowed and that terrible things will happen. I agree with Senator Koch to this extent that Buffalo County people are probably going to build this track one way or another, one way or another. I commend them for doing so. I would, however, suggest that in the interest of what is fair and what is not fair if we could build a track in Lincoln, Nebraska for the benefit of agricultural people, the State Fair and whatever other activity we want to call it, we can build one in Central Nebraska. That's as far West as we've gotten almost with a track of this type and size and the scope of the project which they have proposed. I think it's worthwhile, I think it's commendable, I think it's overdue. I want to commend the people for having thought of it.

I want to say this in answer to Senator Denny Rasmussen, who as he's point out is my good friend and he goes with me nine times out of ten, I wish he'd let me pick some of those times when he goes with me, same way with Senator Mills and Dworak. If they'd vote with me one time out of ten when I really need them I'd forgive them on the other nine, but they always pick the wrong times. So I'd hope at this time, Denny, ... Senator Rasmussen, pardon me. I don't want to be so familiar on the floor. I hope that you will not feel that the bill needs to be indefinitely postponed and that you will, if the bill survives the kill motion, I'm willing to sit down with you....